

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 17 and 21 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 18-20, and add new claim 22 as follows.

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a storing unit configured to store a pre-defined list of rules for detecting special data packets;

a detecting unit configured to detect special data packets in a received plurality of data packets based on the pre-defined list of rules stored in said storing unit;

a routing unit configured to request instructions for the special data packets detected by said detecting unit and route the special data packets in accordance with instructions received on request; and

an internal entity configured to store instructions for the special data packets; wherein said routing unit is configured to notify said internal entity of the detected special data packets and request instructions for the special data packets from said internal entity; and

wherein an external entity is configured to determine and update the instructions stored in said internal entity during active operations.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said routing unit is configured to notify the external entity of the detected special data packets instead of said internal entity, and request instructions for the special data packets from said external entity instead of said internal entity.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said external entity is configured to determine and update the rules stored in said storing unit during active operations.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said routing unit is configured to modify the special data packets in accordance with the received instructions.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said routing unit is configured to communicate with an external charging entity for charging the routing of the special data packets.

6. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

storing a pre-defined list of rules for detecting special data packets;

detecting special data packets in a received plurality of data packets based on the stored pre-defined list of rules;

requesting instructions for the detected special data packets and routing the special data packets in a data network in accordance with instructions received on request; and

notifying an internal entity of the detected special data packets and requesting instructions for the special data packets from said internal entity when requesting the instructions for the detected special data packets;

wherein the instructions stored in said internal entity are determined and updated by an external entity during active operations.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said requesting comprises:

notifying said external entity of the detected special data packets instead of said internal entity; and

requesting instructions for the special data packets from said external entity instead of said internal entity.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the stored rules are determined and updated by said external entity during active operations.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said routing step (S5) comprises:

modifying the special data packets in accordance with the received instructions.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising: communicating with an external charging entity for charging the routing of the special data packets.

11. (Previously Presented) A data network system in which the apparatus of claim 1 is employed.

12. (Previously Presented) A data network system in which the apparatus of claim 2 is employed.

13. (Previously Presented) A data network system in which the apparatus of claim 3 is employed.

14. (Previously Presented) A data network system in which the apparatus of claim 4 is employed.

15. (Previously Presented) A data network system in which the apparatus of claim 5 is employed.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

storing means configured to store a pre-defined list of rules for detecting special data packets;

detecting means configured to detect special data packets in a received plurality of data packets based on the pre-defined list of rules stored in said storing means;

routing means configured to request instructions for the special data packets detected by said detecting means and route the special data packets in accordance with instructions received on request; and

an internal entity configured to store instructions for the special data packets; wherein said routing means is configured to notify said internal entity of the detected special data packets and request instructions for the special data packets from said internal entity; and

wherein an external entity is configured to determine and update the instructions stored in said internal entity during active operations.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A network element, comprising:

a routing unit configured to request instructions for special data packets detected by a detecting unit and route the special data packets in accordance with instructions received on request;

wherein said routing unit is configured to notify an internal entity of the detected special data packets and request instructions for the special data packets from said internal entity, and

~~The network element of claim 17,~~ wherein said routing unit is configured to notify an external entity of the detected special data packets instead of said internal entity, and request instructions for the special data packets from said external entity instead of said internal entity.

19. (Currently Amended) The network element of claim 1847, wherein said routing unit is configured to modify the special data packets in accordance with the received instructions.

20. (Currently Amended) The network element of claim 1847, wherein said routing unit is configured to communicate with an external charging entity for charging the routing of the special data packets.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) A computer program implemented on a computer-readable medium, said computer program controlling a processor to:

store a pre-defined list of rules for detecting special data packets;

detect a special data packets in a received plurality of data packets based on one of the stored pre-defined list of rules;

request instructions for the detected special data packets;

route the special data packets in a data network in accordance with instructions received upon the request;

notify an internal entity of the detected special data packets; and

request instructions for the special data packets from the internal entity when requesting the instructions for the detected special data packets,

wherein the instructions stored in the internal entity are determined and updated by an external entity during active operations.